

Message Text

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12

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 XMB-02 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07

INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-06

SAM-01 OES-06 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 /101 W

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R 161422Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8283

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, DR

SUBJ: UPDATE ON ELECTRICAL POWER CRISIS

REF: A) SANTO DOMINGO A-99, B) SANTO DOMINGO 4155, C) SANTO DOMINGO
4412

1. THE ELECTRIC POWER SITUATION REMAINS AS BAD AS EVER. US-OWNED FALCONBRIDGE DISCONNECTED ITS 30 MEGAWATT INPUT FROM THE NATIONAL GRID ON AUGUST 30, AFTER HAVING EXTENDED ITS SERVICE NINE DAYS BEYOND THE AGREED CUTOFF DATE. IN THE MEANTIME, HAINA 3, THE NEW 80-MW GENERATOR BEING INSTALLED BY GENERAL ELECTRIC, WAS ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED TO COME ON STREAM AUGUST 21, BUT IS STILL NOT FUNCTIONING REGULARLY.

2. THE NATIONAL GRID IS SO UNSTABLE THAT THERE ARE WIDE VOLTAGE FLUCTUATIONS, AND, UNFORTUNATELY, HAINA 3 STILL LACKS DOLS 84,000 WORTH OF NEGATIVE RELAYS TO KEEP COUNTER-SURGES FROM DAMAGING THE GENERATORS, COMPUTERS, AND OTHER EQUIPMENT. SUCH COUNTER-SURGES HAVE KNOCKED THE NEW GENERATOR OUT FOUR TIMES SINCE EFFORTS WERE MADE TO BRING IT ON STREAM.

3. THE LOCAL GE SALES REPRESENTATIVE, HERB HUNT, IS SUPPOSED TO
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BE WORKING IN THE US NOW ON TRYING TO GET THE NEGATIVE RELAYS

FLOWN TO THE DR. GE HAS BEEN APPARENTLY HOLDING UP SHIPMENTS UNTIL IT RECEIVED LETTERS OF CREDIT FROM CDE.

4. ALTHOUGH THE NEW WESTINGHOUSE GENERATOR FOR SAN PEDRO DE MACORIS ARRIVED IN EARLY JULY, TECHNICIANS OF POWER SERVICES OF HOUSTON WHICH WERE TO WORK ON THAT JOB HAVE BEEN BUSY ALL SUMMER WITH THE POWER PLANT AT BARAHONA. THE LATTER HAS NOW BEEN RESTORED AND THE TECHNICIANS HAVE BEEN TRANSFERRED TO SAN PEDRO DE MACORIS, WHERE THAT GENERATOR IS NOW SLATED TO BE IN OPERATION TOWARD THE END OF OCTOBER. BARAHONA AND MACORIS EACH GENERATE 28 MW.

5. SANTO DOMINGO 8, WITH A THEORETICAL CAPACITY OF 26.5 MW, WILL REPORTEDLY BE IN OPERATION AGAIN SOON, THIS WEEK ACCORDING TO CDE.

6. HAINA 4, ANOTHER 80-MW GENERATOR BEING INSTALLED BY GE, WILL PROBABLY NOT BE PRODUCING AT FULL CAPACITY BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR.

7. AS REPORTED REPAIR A, CDE'S PLANS CALL FOR SHUTTING DOWN HAINA 1 AND 2 IN SUCCESSION FOR SIX MONTHS EACH OF MAINTENANCE AND REPAIRS WHEN HAINA 3 AND 4 ARE ON LINE.

8. YESTERDAY PRESIDENT BALAGUER MET WITH THE CDE BOARD TO RECEIVE THE STUDY OF THE ELECTRIC POWER SITUATION DONE BY TWO JAPANESE WHICH WAS REPORTED REFTEL C. EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS THE JAPANESE REPORT CLOSELY FOLLOWS CDE'S OWN PROJECTIONS AS REPORTED REPAIR A.

9. THE GODR BUREAUCRACY IS INCREASINGLY SEIZED OF THE ELECTRIC POWER CRISIS WITH TOP OFFICIALS IN THE NATIONAL PALACE, CENTRAL BANK, THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT OF THE PRESIDENCY, AND THE SECRETARIAT OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE TALKING A GREAT DEAL ABOUT NUCLEAR ENERGY, SOLAR ENERGY, WINDMILL ENERGY, GEOTHERMAL ENERGY, AND THE PROBABILITY OF COMMERCIALY EXPLOITABLE PETROLEUM AND COAL DEPOSITS HERE.

10. THE GE PROJECT MANAGER FOR INSTALLING HAINA 3 AND 4 SPEAKS SOMEWHAT DISCOURAGINGLY ABOUT THE OVERALL STABILITY OF THE NATIONAL GRID. THE WATER SUPPLY OF THE CITY OF SANTO DOMINGO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IS 95 PERCENT DEPENDENT UPON THE GRID. INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE ARE HURTING FROM THE POWER BREAKDOWNS AND SHORTAGES. THE TURNING OFF OF WATER, AIR CONDITIONING AND ELEVATORS IN THE LOCAL HOTELS IS TURNING OFF TOURISTS FROM THE US AND PUERTO RICO. WHILE THE UPPER CLASSES ARE MUTTERING INCREASINGLY ABOUT THE OVERALL SITUATION, THE POPULACE AS A WHOLE SEEMS TO BE LARGELY RESIGNED TO IT.
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